

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device for collecting and detecting airborne microorganisms, comprising:

~~a~~ an enclosed culturing container containing liquid media capable of growing the microorganisms, the container having a first tube with an outwardly extended end opened to the ambient air and extending to a bottom section of the container so as to be in the liquid media with a headspace above the liquid media, and having a second tube adjacent the first tube extending into the headspace in the container above the liquid media at one end and having an other end;

~~an air~~ a vacuum pump for transferring an air sample with the microorganisms through said liquid media from the first tube, thereby intimately mixing and contacting the microorganisms with said liquid media, for subsequent incubation of the microorganisms in order to promote their growth₇; and

a submicron filter at the other end of the second tube between the culturing container and ~~air~~ the vacuum.

Neogen 4.1-51
Appl. No. 10/630,167
Amdt. Dated: January 16, 2007
Reply to Office Action of October 16, 2006

pump to prevent liquid and solid particulate matter from passing beyond the filter and contaminating the air pump, wherein the container, first tube, second tube and filter are disposable after the collection and detecting of the airborne microorganisms.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said culturing container further includes a detector substance capable of detecting microbial growth during said incubation of the microorganisms.

5. (Original) The device of claim 4 wherein said detector substance is a pH indicator.

6. (Original) The device of claim 4 wherein said detector substance is a redox indicator.

7. (Original) The device of claim 4 wherein said detector substance is an enzymatic indicator.

Neogen 4.1-51
Appl. No. 10/630,167
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8. (Original) The device of claim 4 wherein said liquid media is selectively promoting growth of a specific class of microorganisms and inhibiting growth of other organisms.

9. (Original) The device of claim 4 wherein said liquid media further comprises at least one antimicrobial agent capable of inhibiting the growth of background microorganisms while allowing growth of target microorganisms which are resistive to said antimicrobial agent.

10. (Original) The device of claim 9 wherein said target microorganisms are species of anthrax.

11. (Cancelled)